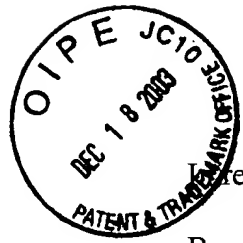


3738



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I am patent application of:

Boyd et al.

Serial No. 09/869,755

Filed November 15, 2001

TRUNCATED OPEN INTERVERTEBRAL
SPACERS

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) Before the Examiner
) Not yet known
)
) Group Art Unit
) 3738
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#8
Amold
S. Bryce
1/2/03

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION SUBMITTED UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DEC 22 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 15, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3.

The remarks begin on page 8.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 15 2003

(Date of Deposit)

James B. Myers, Jr.

Name of Registered Representative

James B. Myers Jr.

Signature

December 15 2003

Date of Signature